(b) if so, whether Government in co-ordination with the Delhi Police, is thinking of launching a full-fledged bperation to check this state of affairs where over 20,000 children are suspected to be working in such units;

(c) whether any NGO or such voluntary organization brought this matter to the notice of Government; and

(d) whether Government are devising ways and means to eradicate illegal child exploitation by small industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any organized racket operating in Delhi which is involved in exploiting child labour.

(b) Does not arise. However, the NCT Government of Delhi proposes to conduct a survey to identify child labour.

(c) NGO/Voluntary Organisation has brought the issue of employment of child labour to the notice of Government of Delhi.

(d) Action is taken against units found employing child labour in violation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

Facilities to tea plantation workers

†4571. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that labourers working in tea plantations in Assam are not getting fixed minimum wages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that said labourers are deprived of all facilities to be made available under the labour law;

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating efforts to provide all prescribed facilities to them; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

both the Central and State Government/Union Territories are the appropriate Government to oversee the implementation of the Act in their respective jurisdictions. As regards ensuring the payment of minimum wages to the tea plantation workers, the State Government of Assam is the appropriate Government for the purpose. On the basis of reply received from the State Government there is no information to the effect that tea labourers are not getting the minimum wages so fixed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Child labour

4572. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to eliminate the Child Labour which is around 1.25 crores children in the age group of 5 to 14 years;

(b) if so, whether Government have any action oriented programmes for the rehabilitation of the effected child labour; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to eliminate child labour in all forms, Government has formulated a National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme. The NCLP Scheme envisages a sequential action-oriented approach for the abolition of child labour starting with children working in most hazardous occupations to covering all forms of child labour. The NCLP Scheme has been extended to cover 250 districts across 21 States of the country. Under the Scheme, special schools are opened for the working children withdrawn from hazardous occupations with the objective of preparing them to join the formal education system. Educational instructions, vocational training, mid-day-meal, stipend and health-checks are essential components of the NCLP Scheme.

Provision of jobs through employment exchanges

†4573. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.